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NIGHT-LETTER }
DAY WIRE }

THE T. EATON CO. LIMITED
TELEGRAM - CABLE

COPY FOR PERSON
SENDING MESSAGE

Toronto, February 6th 19. 34

Mr. R. Y. Eaton,
"The Breakers",
Palm Beach, Fla.

M.E. SCHOOL ARREARS PAID UP IN FULL BY MISS LEIGHTON OUT OF SCHOOL FUNDS.
BENNETT TO SUBMIT SUGGESTIONS PROSPECTUS FOR NEXT SEASON. LETTER
FOLLOWING.

LEWIS

Charge Merchandise Office. Confirm by Letter?

COPY

Merchandise Office.

February 6th, 1934.

Mr. R. Y. Eaton,
"The Breakers",
Palm Beach, Fla.

Dear Mr. Eaton:

Confirming my wire of to-day, the back rent of the Margaret Eaton School has been paid up in full out of the school funds.

I note what you say in regard to the possibility of carrying on the school when Miss Hamilton resigns. I think the only hope in sight of making it a really worth-while institution with the other valuable elements in addition to the purely physical education side of it, is in having a man like Mr. Sterndale-Bennett take hold of it.

But here is the other side of it: I had a call a few days ago from Dr. Brown, principal of Victoria College, who stated that he is tremendously interested in the work Miss Hamilton has been doing in physical education. He prefaced his remarks, however, by saying that he did not think the Margaret Eaton School had a very promising future as a school of literature and dramatic expression. He thought that those things were already being taken care of fairly adequately by the various University dramatic societies and instructors in dramatic expression; but he felt that such a school as the present Margaret Eaton School would be of tremendous value in affiliation with a college like Victoria College, not so much as a teacher-training institution, but as a means of affording the badly needed physical education and development of the women students of the College.

Dr. Brown said that he had just come from a meeting of the University Senate, at which he had brought the matter up. Dr. Cody, and others, had stated that the matter had already received their consideration as a university feature, but that nothing had eventuated from it, because no one seemed willing to provide the funds necessary for the establishment and endowing of suitable premises.

Dr. Brown here remarked that he did not put his own proposal forward with any view to setting himself in competition with the University, and that before he would feel at

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February 6th, 1934.

liberty to make any definite proposal, he would want to be assured that all old proposals were dead, and that the University was not in the running.

He then went on to indicate that his own thought was somewhat similar to that of the University Governors', namely that Victoria College might provide suitable land on Bloor St. south side, east of the Lillian Massey School of Household Science, and that those interested in the Margaret Eaton School should provide funds for a suitable building and equipment.

It is evident that any thought he has in mind does not chime in with your ideas of what the Margaret Eaton School should be.

With regard to Hart House Theatre for the coming season, Mr. Edgar Stone has resigned, and I have been told, thought I cannot vouch for it, that there is quite a possibility of Mr. Rupert Harvey, a protege of the Governor-General, coming here to take charge. This, however, may be only a surmise on account of Harvey's connection with the Canadian Dram Festival, and fairly close contact with the Vincent Massey's.

Mr. Gordon Mills informs me that some time ago he suggested to Mr. Sterndale-Bennett, in quite a non-committal way, that he should draw up a program, which in his opinion would be a suitable literary and dramatic prospectus for a school such as the Margaret Eaton School, and that Mr. Bennett has sent to England for information regarding the curriculum of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. He is still awaiting this, and will present his suggestion after he has seen it.

In a note which I received from you yesterday morning, you inquired what we thought about linking up the centenary of Mr. Timothy Eaton with the Toronto centenary. We have already discussed this in our Store Centennial Committee, also with Mr. Startup, and find that there is a strong feeling something should be done to link up these two things.

The Golden Jubilee Book states that Mr. Timothy Eaton was born two months after the death of his father. Col. Nasmith's book would indicate that Mr. Eaton's father died during the late winter or early spring, and I am still making inquiries to try and fix this date.

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February 6th, 1934.

I think it might be a good idea if we were to gather together as many interesting relics and pictures of the founder as we can possibly get, and put them in a suitable setting in the store. I think we should also run some interesting editorial matter on Mr. Eaton and his principles, and the reasons for his great success, linking it all up, of course, with the Centennial of Toronto.

You also mention that you would be interested in hearing what action the C.C.F. contemplate taking in regard to Stevens' investigation. The enclosed clipping is the only notable indication I have seen yet as to the attitude of the C.C.F. There has as yet been very little comment on the part of Mr. Woodsworth

With regard to editorial propaganda of our own bearing on the subject, I have been wondering if it would be a good idea to prepare some editorials bringing out the fact that Eaton's employ a large army of people throughout Canada. I would like to have your opinion as to the advisability of doing this, and I am submitting the first of these editorials to Mr. Vaughan to-day, but I am inclined to think from the short discussion I have had with him that you would have some reluctance about publishing anything at the present time which would emphasize the great proportions of the business.

We are receiving a newspaper clipping service from all over Canada, containing all comments from newspapers and other publications upon the Stevens' investigation. Nothing very new or startling has appeared for the past two weeks, but there has been a great deal of comment in newspapers all over, mostly reprints of what has appeared in the larger cities.

We will certainly keep you informed as to any new developments.

Yours sincerely,

IRL/W.

70114

Prof. Delury is coming in to see about
maybe later school. Don't know his errand
But as Miss Hamilton last year made some
arrangement about doing work for Victoria
College in physical training he probably
wants to know about the permanency of the
school

Some time ago Miss H. said she
was going to resign. Mr. Livingston
advised her that this was her own affair
as the school was her own adventure &
she was under no obligation to send in
a resignation. But he remarked that
he supposed she would want to take
care of the second year of present pupils

She then said she would remain another
year and finish up

So I suppose the University seeks to know
about the future. We should properly
refer him to Miss Hamilton. Or we
should merely say that so far as we are
concerned we have no plans for it
that it is Miss Hamilton's school and
that is understood she is giving it up

That will of course make the University
decide to terminate the agreement between

2
Victoria College & Miss Hamilton, & put
a definite & inglorious end to the school.

The question is whether the work done
by the school is worth saving. If so
how can the I.C.C. take care of it?

If we take any responsibility now, it will
be left on our doorstep. If we take none, then
it is up to Miss Hamilton. If we take none
it will look as if somehow we had forsaken
Miss Hamilton. She is greatly liked by
her past pupils. Would such action seem
to these as shabby treatment of Miss H &
their "Alma Mater"? They do seem to
keep alive their alumnus or whatever it is
called, & meet annually. They would continue
to meet as long as Mrs H lives & I suppose
mourn over the fate of the school & of course
blame latons. Geo Beadmore spent oceans of
money establishing & maintaining a burnt near
Aurora. And when he lost his money &
was no longer able to continue, & said so, it
meant either breaking up or the members
contributing. You should have heard how those
members spoke of how Beadmore had "let
them down". So in this case if the Co
lets the school go, we would have to be

prepared to take adverse criticism..
 And if, as we expect, Mr Stevens is
 going to gather together all the stuff
 he can get, about the having shabbily
 treated old managers & old employees &
 having had hundreds of employees receiving
 wages far below minimum, & as we will
 not get a chance to show how these
 things are wrongly reported, then
 whatever Mrs H. wants to say about
 the Eatons will be believed, as it can
 be made to fit in with the above

(There are several ways of celebrating the
 centenary of founder's birth).

Ought we to have the nerve to accept no
 responsibility now? Or should we use discretion
 & temporize now, & trust to luck that
 there would be some way found during the
 year to perpetuate the school?

Should we in any case get particulars
 from Mrs H regarding probable income
 & expenditure?

And what shall I say to Delany
 to-day at 11?

R/L



The Breakers
PALM BEACH
FLORIDA

401/25
Feb 3 3x

Dear Ivor

I have heard nothing as to the outcome re M.S. school residence rental dispute. If a settlement is not made I wonder if had better not discontinue giving that rebate on purchases from store. It may be necessary to watch carefully what happens there, as Miss Hamiltons acknowledged business supervisor is Bob Fennell, a right decent chap, but son-in-law of Kasmirsk who might not mind seeing the Marget Eaton name dragged in the mud in a law court over a trifling sum of back debts or a fuss over rent.

I wonder if it should not just

let it close up & be through with
it when Miss Hamilton quits. It
was tolerated as a Meryl Eaton
school out of consideration of Miss H.
And I don't think he would be willing
to entrust the name to some stranger
who never knew Mrs J. Eaton especially
some young woman who had only Miss
Hamilton's Physical School in mind?

The Sterndale Bennett idea might
turn out ok, provided Bennett would
stick with it. But there's always the
lure of Hart House & Mr. M's jealousy
of any other dramatic organization in
the city. so that Bennett might easily
be persuaded to go to the more
attractive atmosphere of Hart House &
leave us in the lurch.

Odd I have heard so little as to
the probable plans or some kind of
proposals for the school for Fall.
would you mind warning me?

Yours sincerely
R. Eaton



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